

# Looking for Alpha-testers for WebGeocalc

July 24, 2012

In partnership with the User Centered Technology Group at NASA/Ames, NAIF is prototyping a web-based GUI interface to SPICE, with working name "WebGeocalc" (WGC). Using only a standard web browser, a WGC customer uses traditional GUI controls—fill-in boxes, drop-down menus, and radio and check boxes—to tell a remote WGC server what observation geometry calculation is wanted and which mission's SPICE collection, or which specific SPICE kernels, are to be used. Upon pressing a CALCULATE button the result appears on the customer's screen moments later.

In addition to obtaining traditional numeric results, some graphical output is also available.

It is envisioned WGC could serve multiple needs.

- A way to check traditional SPICE-based code being developed by a customer
- A way to do some spot checks of geometry during a peer review
- A way to obtain a quick answer to a geometry question during a meeting or workshop
- Opening the possibility of doing space geometry calculations to people not able to do programming

The NAIF Group would provide and maintain the primary WGC server along with the underlying large collection of SPICE kernels from many missions. Also, it is anticipated the server code would be freely available to any person or entity that would wish to set up a local version.

A very preliminary version of WGC will be made available to individuals interested in trying it out in order to provide feedback to NAIF about what works and doesn't work, what is difficult to understand, and what additional features should be considered.

NAIF expects this alpha-test version to be released sometime this Fall. If you would like to participate in this limited time alpha-testing phase, please send an email to the NAIF manager, Charles Acton: [charles.acton@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:charles.acton@jpl.nasa.gov)